

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: JOEL MARCUSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 - FUNDING UPDATE & ACTIONS OF MAJOR
TRANSPORTATION BODIES

ISSUE: Update of funding and actions of major transportation bodies.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the report.

DISCUSSION: This memorandum provides a brief update on funding and/or actions of major regional transportation bodies as they relate to the City.

General funding updates of local, regional and national importance are provided below. Attachment 1 contains the Commission's regular *Monthly Update of Regional Transportation Board Major Actions and Funding*.

City: City Council

The City Council was updated on the DASH Efficiency study at the September 10, 2013 City Council meeting. The City Council approved a set of priorities for RSTP and CMAQ funds at the City Council meeting of September 24, 2013. There was discussion about the Transit Store and opportunities to change how we think about the Transit Store.

State: Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

Presentations were given at the September 16, 2013 CTB meeting on Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and on Transit Performance Metrics which have been discussed by the Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC).

State: Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

The General Assembly passed legislation (SB 1140) requiring that any new transit funds be allocated based on performance, but did not dictate the process or specific performance indicators. The TSDAC was appointed to develop a methodology.

The TSDAC tentatively adopted a method of allocating new operating funds, which was released for public comment in September. They have developed a three phase approach

that will reward performance improvement over baseline performance in different phases in transition periods in FY2014 and FY2015, and a final phase to be used in FY2016 and beyond. The City drafted comments regarding this methodology before the deadline of October 1, 2013. The City was particularly concerned that the transit needs of people working or visiting jurisdictions were not addressed by this methodology.

TSDAC continues to deliberate regarding the criteria that will be used to allocate capital assistance.

Regional: Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)

Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

At the September 18, 2013 meeting, TPB reviewed comments received concerning the draft TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP). The City submitted comments regarding this plan. More review of the plan will occur in future months.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

At the September 12, 2013 WMATA Board meeting, no action items were considered. The WMATA Planning, Program Development, and Real Estate Committee approved an item to grant the City of Alexandria a permanent easement which will enable it to construct a set of access improvements at the King Street-Old Town Metrorail station. WMATA also held public hearings on route modifications suggested by WMATA staff.

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)

At its September 6, 2013 meeting, the NVTC Board received comments regarding the TSDAC committee, and authorized the Board to send a letter to TSDAC expressing concerns about the method of allocating new operating revenues. NVTC discussed some preliminary findings produced by the auditor of public accounts regarding VRE.

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)

NVTA had a board meeting on September 26, 2013, in which the Board was briefed on DRPT's SuperNova plan and VDOT's HB599 prioritization study. NVTA discussed how the HB599 study as well as court actions will affect a call for projects and the development of a NVTA Six Year Plan.

Federal: Funding Updates and Grant Notices of Awards

No significant federal actions occurred during this month.